Update re. Fatality Hit and Run Crash at 15th Avenue South and 25th Street South

Date / Time of Incident: June 4th, 2014 at 2111 hours.

Brief Description of Incident: A 1997 white Toyota Camry, FL tag of 2918IE, driven by Anna Melendez (W/F, 12/28/1951, 1616 21st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL) was traveling eastbound on 15th Avenue South approaching 25th Street South. Anna Melendez’s husband, Tomas Melendez (W/M, 01/22/1933, 1616 21st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL) was riding in the front passenger seat of the Toyota Camry along with their son, Daniel Melendez (W/M, 03/22/1990, 1616 21st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL) in the backseat.

A 2014 silver Nissan Altima, FL tag of CILN37, was traveling northbound on 25th Street South toward 15th Avenue South. The Silver Nissan Altima was an Avis rental vehicle that was originally rented to a Keisha Williams (B/F, 07/02/1986, 2300 23rd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL). Keisha Williams was not driving or with the Nissan Altima at the time of the crash.

The driver of the Nissan Altima is unidentified at this time. The Nissan Altima was traveling at a high rate of speed and swerving around other vehicles on the roadway according to witnesses. The Nissan Altima then ran a stop sign for northbound traffic on 25th Street South with the front striking the right side of the Toyota Camry. The Toyota Camry flipped onto the driver side crashing into a chain link fence on the northeast corner of the intersection.

The suspect driver of the Nissan Altima then ran from the scene northbound on foot. Tomas Melendez was transported to Bayfront Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 2138 hours. Anna and Daniel Melendez were also transported to Bayfront Hospital for treatment and have since been released.

The suspect driver is described as a black male, 20 - 30 years of age, with a beard.

Release Prepared by: Officer Matthew Carter / Traffic Homicide Investigator (Van3)

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.